

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 10, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 22

Introduced by Senator Speier

(Coauthors: Senators Chesbro, *Figueroa*, *Kuehl*, and Romero)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Jones, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Lieber,
~~Mullin~~, *Lieu*, *Mullin*, *Nava*, and Pavley)

February 6, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution No. 22—Relative to the Microbicide Development Act.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 22, as amended, Speier. Microbicide Development Act.

This measure would memorialize the United States Congress and the President to enact the Microbicide Development Act to facilitate the development of microbicides to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Microbicides are a promising new prevention
- 2 tool that could slow down the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- 3 in the United States and around the world; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Women and girls are the new face of HIV/AIDS
- 5 and account for almost one-half of the 37 million adults living
- 6 with HIV and AIDS worldwide as of 2005, and approximately
- 7 7,000 women are infected with HIV each day; and
- 8 WHEREAS, In California, women comprise about 8 percent
- 9 of all reported AIDS cases, yet are the fastest growing population

1 with AIDS, and sex with an HIV-infected male is the most
2 common route of transmission; and

3 WHEREAS, AIDS is now the number one cause of death
4 among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34
5 years; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States has the highest rates of
7 sexually transmitted diseases of any industrialized nation, with
8 more than 19 million new STD infections every year; and

9 WHEREAS, It is estimated that by age 25 one-half of all
10 sexually active people in the United States can expect to be
11 infected with a STD; and

12 WHEREAS, HIV and AIDS result in direct medical costs of
13 more than \$15 billion per year and the pandemic undermines our
14 economy and security; and

15 WHEREAS, Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams,
16 or rings to inactivate, block, or otherwise interfere with the
17 transmission of the pathogens that cause AIDS and other STDs,
18 allowing women to protect themselves from disease; and

19 WHEREAS, Unlike current HIV prevention methods,
20 microbicides would allow women to both conceive children and
21 protect themselves from HIV and STDs; and

22 WHEREAS, The microbicide field has achieved an
23 extraordinary amount of scientific momentum, with several
24 first-generation candidates now in large scale human trials
25 around the world; and

26 WHEREAS, Microbicides are a classic public health good, for
27 which the social benefits are high but the economic incentive to
28 private investment is low and, like other public health goods such
29 as vaccines, public funding must fill the gap; and

30 WHEREAS, The federal government needs to make a strong
31 commitment to microbicide research and development, and while
32 three agencies—the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the
33 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the
34 United States Agency for International Development
35 (USAID)—have played important roles, further strong,
36 well-coordinated, and visible public sector leadership is essential
37 for the promise of microbicides to be fully realized; and

38 WHEREAS, In 2005, NIH spent ~~barely~~ *less than* 2 percent of
39 its HIV/AIDS research budget on microbicides, and that funding
40 level is inadequate; and

1 WHEREAS, HIV and STD prevention strategies must
2 recognize women's unique needs and vulnerabilities if women
3 are to have a genuine opportunity to protect themselves, and their
4 best option is the rapid development of new ~~HIV-prevention~~ *HIV*
5 *prevention* technologies—~~like~~ *such as* microbicides; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
8 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature memorializes the United
9 States Congress and the President of the United States to enact
10 the Microbicide Development Act (S. 550 and H.R. 3854), which
11 would amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate the
12 development of microbicides for preventing the transmission of
13 HIV and other diseases, and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
15 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
16 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority
17 Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from
18 California in the Congress of the United States.